

URBAN DISTRICT OF WELLINGTON
(Somerset).

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1938,

by

R. DE VEIL KING,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1938.**

WELLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1938.

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WELLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT.

Statistics for the Year 1938.

Area (in Acres)	2,186
Estimate of Resident Population, Mid-year 1938	6,628
Census Population, 1931	7,132
No. of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books on December 31st, 1938	2,042
Rateable value—December 31st, 1938	£37,023
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 31st March, 1938	£141 11s. 11d

Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Year.

		<i>Total. M. F.</i>				
Live Births	{ Legitimate	71	31	40	} Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resi- dent population ..	11.01
	{ Illegitimate	2	1	1		
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>		
		73	32	41		
Still Births.....		4	3	1	} Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	51.94
Deaths		112	52	60	} Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resi- dent population ..	16.89

Deaths from puerperal causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):—

	<i>Rate per 1,000 Deaths. total (live & still) births.</i>	
No. 29—Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
No. 30—Other puerperal causes ..	—	—
	—	—
	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

Legitimate, 6; Illegitimate, nil: Total Infant Deaths	6
All Infants per 1,000 live births	82.19
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	84.50
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	20
,, ,, Measles (all ages).....	nil
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	nil

The rates for the area can be compared with the rates for England and Wales in the following table: the local crude death rate has been multiplied by the factor 0.75 supplied by the Registrar-General to make this rate strictly comparable with that for England and Wales:—

	<i>Eng. and Wales.</i>	<i>Wellington U.D.</i>
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	15.1	11.01
Still birth rate ,, ,, ,,	0.60	0.60
Death rate ,, ,, ,, ,,	11.6	12.60
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	53.0	82.19
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births:—		
(a) Puerperal Sepsis	0.89	Nil.
(b) Other causes	2.19	
	Total 3.08	

Infant Mortality during 1938.

The following table gives the causes and ages at death of the infants who died under one year of age:—

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 - 12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Injury at Birth	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Vomiting	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Cong. Pyloric Stenosis....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
	4	—	—	—	4	1	—	1	—	6

Causes of Death during 1938.

as supplied by the Registrar-General.

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
All Causes	52	60	112
Whooping Cough	1	—	1
Influenza	1	1	2
Respiratory Tuberculosis	—	4	4
Other Tuberculosis	2	1	3
G.P.I., tabes, etc.	—	1	1
Cancer	8	12	20
Diabetes	—	3	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage	3	4	7
Heart Disease	11	16	27
Other Circulatory Disease	3	3	6
Bronchitis	4	2	6
Other Respiratory Disease	—	1	1
Peptic Ulcer	2	—	2
Other Liver Disease	1	—	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2	1	3
Congenital Debility: Prematurity, etc.	4	—	4
Senility	3	8	11
Violence	3	—	3
Other Defined Disease	4	3	7

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Hospitals.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Cases of infectious diseases are sent to the Taunton and District Joint Isolation Hospital situated in the Borough of Taunton—Wellington is one of the contributory authorities.

Severe cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum are received by the Hospital but are maintained by the County Council.

Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia are admitted through and maintained by the County Council to the Puerperal Sepsis Block of the Isolation Hospital. This new Block commenced to receive cases from May, 1938.

TUBERCULOSIS.—Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and non-pulmonary Tuberculosis come under the County Scheme for treatment. The Pulmonary cases are sent to Quantock Sanatorium if the disease is in an early stage and the more advanced cases are sent to Taunton Sanatorium. Cases requiring Orthopaedic treatment are admitted to Chard Sanatorium or to the Bath Orthopaedic Hospital.

Pre-tubercular children and children with Tubercular Glands also come under the County Council Scheme and are sent to Compton Bishop Children's Home, near Axbridge.

SMALL-POX.—Provision for the accommodation of cases of Small-pox is made by the County Council at its Hospital at Cossington, near Bridgwater.

GENERAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL.—The district has its own Cottage Hospital and there are in-patient and out-patient facilities available at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital in the Borough of Taunton, and the Hospitals in Bristol.

CHRONIC SICK.—These are received into the Public Assistance Institution situated within the District.

MENTAL SICK.—Cases are sent to the Mental Hospital at Cotford.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

TUBERCULOSIS.—A clinic is held once a week in the urban area at which the services of a County Tuberculosis Officer are available. In conjunction with the Clinic there is an after care Committee working in co-operation with the Tuberculosis Officer.

VENEREAL DISEASES.—A clinic and treatment centre combined is maintained by the County Council at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital.

MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE.—The Maternity and Child Welfare Acts are administered by the County Council, under whose supervision are also the Midwives practicing in the area. There is an excellent Maternity Home in the Urban District, with eight beds, one receiving bed and a bed in the Labour Ward. The No. of admissions of Mothers to the Home for 1938 was 146 and the No. of Babies born there was 150.

There is a voluntary Infant Welfare Centre with a lady doctor in attendance at the sessions.

Every case of Puerperal Pyrexia and Maternal mortality is investigated under the Maternity Child Welfare Scheme of the County Council.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.—The County Laboratory is situated in the Borough of Taunton. No charge is made for Bacteriological examinations in suspected cases of Diphtheria, Tuberculosis, Enteric Fever, Cerebral-spinal Fever, etc., etc. This service is also available without charge to Medical men practising in the District. Bacteriological and chemical analysis are also undertaken for the examination of milk, foods, water supplies, sewage effluents, etc.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—The Wellington and District Ambulance Society, under the auspices of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, was inaugurated in 1930. During 1931, the Wellington Urban District Council made a grant of £100 and the Wellington Rural District Council a grant of £50 towards the initial cost of an Ambulance and it serves the areas of these two authorities. Each authority is represented on the Society's Committee. The Ambulance service is well organised, highly efficient and adequate for the areas served.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY.—The Public Water Supply is ample and of good bacteriological quality. It is fairly hard. Ten samples were taken during the year and examined by the Public Analyst. All the samples showed the absence of B. Coli and Streptococci in 50 c.c. The following is a Chemical analysis of the water which shows its freedom from more than traces of organic impurity:—

Physical Characters	Clear and Bright
Reaction	Slightly Alkaline
Total Solids	33.0
Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	23.75
Total Hardness	26.0
(a) Temporary	20.5
(b) Permanent	5.5
Chlorine (in terms of Sodium Chloride)	2.9
Nitrogen as Saline and free Ammonia	0.0006
,, ,, Albuminoid	0.001
,, ,, Nitrates	0.2
,, ,, Nitrites	nil.
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganete	
(4 hrs. at 80 degrees F.)	0.02
Free Carbon Dioxide	1.1
Silica (as SiO ₂)	0.06
Sediment	nil.

In the report for last year it was stated that 140 houses in the town were supplied from 61 wells. Further work has been done during the year with regard to having these well waters analysed and getting owners of property to have a piped supply laid on where

the results of analyses have been bad. 70 of the 140 houses are more than 200 feet from the mains or standpipes and another 13 are in confirmed clearance areas, leaving 57 houses and of these 52 have now been connected to the main water supply. A supply of water known as "The Well" in Rockwell Green is a spring which rises to a small collecting chamber and overflows by a piped outlet. The water direct from the spring was analysed and found to be unfit for drinking purposes: this Well has been closed.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—The Council's reconstructed Sewage Disposal Works was described in the Report for 1935. There has been some difficulty in drying the Sludge owing to the low situation of the Sludge beds. The Council have under consideration a scheme to reconstruct the former Sludge beds which are at a higher level and to pump the sewage on to them. The effluent will then gravitate to the existing collecting chamber and will be pumped through a three-inch rising main to the detritus chamber for retreatment. This scheme will increase the Sludge drying area to about twice its present size. In conjunction with this work plans for a flow recording instrument are also being prepared.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—Some pollution of the river Tone occurred during the year on one or two occasions, when several fish were killed. The source of the pollution was not definitely established, although several samples of the effluent from the Sewage Works and from that of a factory higher up the river were taken, but the river was very low at the time after a long period of drought, and it is probable that the effluents did not become sufficiently diluted in consequence.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—The water carriage system is practically universal in the district, though not all closets have flushing cisterns. A few pail closets still remain on the outskirts of the district where there is no water main.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—This is satisfactory in so far as the collection of refuse is concerned, but the incinerator has for some time been worked to its full capacity and an extension will shortly have to be considered.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.—The following tabular statement is supplied by MR. A. J. HILL under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

Nature and Number of Inspections during the year:—

Dwelling-houses	128
Slaughter-houses	151
Premises where Food is sold or prepared	20
Bakehouses	14
Disinfections for Infectious Diseases	11
Factories and Workshops	31

Number of Notices served during the year:—

Informal Notices	88
Statutory Notices	10

Results of Notices served:—

Total Notices complied with	87
Notices standing over at the end of 1938	11

Conditions Remedied:—

Defective Drainage	37
Structural Repairs executed	9
Defective Sanitary Fittings	78
Disinfections	11
Dampness abated	47
Provision of New Water Closets	19
Miscellaneous	32

SHOPS AND OFFICES.—The following are some particulars of action taken during the year under the Provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences, and under the Public Health Act, 1936, respectively. Thirty-nine shops were inspected and 3 notices were served and complied with, requiring the repair of existing sanitary conveniences and 2 additional sanitary conveniences have been provided by informal action. It has not been necessary for action to be taken regarding additional light and ventilation, but in three premises action was taken to secure suitable heating arrangements.

Local authorities have now enlarged powers and duties in respect of offices consequent on the wide definition of “work-place” in Section 343 of the Public Health Act, 1936. The new definition embraces all places of clerical employment and removes the doubt which previously existed as to the extent to which local Authorities had control over the condition of offices; right of entry to such premises is given under Section 287 of the same Act, whilst section 92 (1) (a) and (e) give power to treat as a statutory nuisance, premises which are in such a state as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance and to prevent insufficient ventilation or uncleanness or obnoxious effluvia or overcrowding in offices. No special work of inspection of offices has been done during the year under review. The Minister of Health considers it of great importance to national health that conditions in offices should not be such as to be prejudicial to the health of the employees.

CAMPING SITES.—There are no camping sites in the district so that no licences were required to be issued by the local authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.—No action has been found necessary to be taken under Section 101 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.—There is one privately owned Swimming Bath in the area which is open to the Public. Under powers available by Sections 92, 259, and 287 of the Public Health Act, 1936, three samples of water from the Bath were taken and submitted to analysis at the County Laboratory, two of which were entirely satisfactory and one was nearly so. The Bath water is chlorinated by a satisfactory apparatus.

ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS.—No Council houses or other houses have been found to be infected with bed-bugs. Frequent visits are made by the Sanitary Inspector to Slum Clearance Areas before the tenants are removed to a Council house, but no action has been found necessary for the purposes of disinfection. The method of disinfection which would be employed for minor verminous conditions would be spraying with ‘‘Zaldecide’’ or ‘‘Killgercide.’’

SCHOOLS.—The Sanitary conditions and water supply of Schools in the area are satisfactory. On being notified of cases of Infectious Diseases, the Medical Officer of Health visits the School concerned, inspects the Scholars, and excludes certain of them if this is found to be necessary. The co-operation of the School Teachers is always valuable and much useful information is obtained from them when endeavouring to trace the origin of an outbreak.

HOUSING.

The particulars given below are in the form required annually by the Minister of Health:—

I. *Inspection of dwelling-houses during the Year:—*

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	128
	(b)	Number of inspections made for this purpose ..	145
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	42
	(b)	Number of inspections made for this purpose ..	49
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation..	104

II. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices:—*

	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.	88
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III. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—*

(a)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	10

(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
	(a) By owners	10
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	—
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
	(a) By owners	—
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(c)	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition Orders were made	1
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1
(d)	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

IV. *Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding:—*

(a)	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	13
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	15
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	92
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	—
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	6
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	39
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	—

- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report —

Number of new Houses erected during the Year:—

- (1) By Local Authority:—
 With State Assistance—
 (a) Rehousing under Housing Act, 1936 90
 (b) Overcrowding —
 (c) Other —
 Without State Assistance—
 (2) By other bodies or persons—
 (a) With State Assistance —
 (b) Without State Assistance 24

Under the heading (1) (a) above, the 90 Houses consisted of 74 houses and 16 Flats.

The position as regards the number of Dwelling-houses built by the Council is as follows to the end of the year under review:—

Built under the Act of 1919	14
Built under the Act of 1924	170
Built under the Act of 1936	114
And in the course of erection under the Act of 1936 ..	20

Slum Clearance under the Housing Act, 1936.

The Clearance Orders made by the Council during December, 1937, in respect of 23 Areas involving 110 dwelling-houses with a population of 303, were the subject of a Ministry of Health Inquiry on March 15th, 1938. All the Clearance Orders, with the exception of one, were confirmed by the Minister as set out in his letter to the Council dated May 16th, 1938. The one exception was Payton Cottages Clearance Order, because of an undertaking given to the Minister by the Owner, not to use the properties for the purposes of human habitation. In respect of three Clearance Areas, namely: Buckwell No. 4 (7 houses), Bowerman's Lane and Mantle Street (5 houses) and Thorne's Court (3 houses), the Minister, with power to do so under Section 42 of the Housing Act, 1936, gave directions to the Local Authority for payment of compensation to the Owners because notwithstanding the Sanitary defects of these houses, they had been well maintained.

The work directed to Slum Clearance since its commencement can now be summarised thus:—

<i>Clearance Orders Confirmed after Inquiry by Minister of Health</i>	<i>No. of Areas.</i>	<i>No. of houses in the areas.</i>	<i>Population in the areas</i>
1st Scheme Date of Inquiry, 6-2-35	20	98	237
2nd Scheme ,, ,, 24-2-37	11	56	154
3rd Scheme, ,, ,, 15-3-38	22	110	299
Totals ..	53	264	690

Up to the end of the year, 50 houses had been demolished in connection with the Clearance Areas.

During the year the Council have purchased a site known as Doctor's Meadow in Rockwell Green, having an area of 3.21 acres, and, by a compulsory purchase Order confirmed after a Ministry of Health Inquiry, a further site at Longforth having an area of 10 acres.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY—The usual routine work with regard to safeguarding the milk supply has been carried out, including the systematic inspection of farms and dairies, the taking of samples of milk for bacterial content and for tubercle bacilli, and the administration of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938. No legal action was necessary during the year.

19 samples of milk have been taken for bacteriological examination by the County Analyst, as follows:—

<i>Designation.</i>	<i>No. of Samples taken.</i>	<i>No. found satisfactory</i>	<i>No. found unsatisfactory</i>
Tuberculin Tested	—	—	—
Pasteurised	12	10	2
Accredited	4	3	1
Examined for tubercle bacilli	3	3	—
Totals ..	19	16	3

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936:—Under this Order the following licences are in force in the District:—

Licences: Pasteurised milk 2

the above being produced in the district. In addition, the local Authority have issued the following Supplementary Licences for milk vended in the district but not produced therein:—

Supplementary Licences: Pasteurised milk 1
Accredited Milk 2
Tuberculin Tested Milk 1

The Tuberculosis Order, 1925:—No cows were slaughtered.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926:—The Registers which have to be kept under this Order supply the following information:—

No. of Producers on the Register 25
No. of Distributors as follows:—

Distributors only 14
Distributors who are also Producers 11

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—The usual routine inspections of meat and of Slaughter-houses were carried out under the Public Health (Meat Regulations), 1924-1935. No legal action was necessary to be taken during the year. There are seven Registered and two licensed Slaughter-houses in the district to which 151 visits of inspection were made. There were only a few minor matters where it was found that the Regulations had not been observed.

There is no Meat Marking Scheme under Part iii of the Regulations of 1924, in force in the district.

The following Table shows the carcasses inspected and condemned in the form required by the Minister of Health:—

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows.</i>	<i>Cows.</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>
Number killed (if known).....	—	—	—	—	—
Number Inspected	68	31	29	105	121
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis.</i>					
Whole Carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	11	5	—	9	14
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis	16.1	16.1	—	8.5	11.5
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole Carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	8	6	—	—	23
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	11.7	17.4	—	—	19.0

In addition to the above, small condemnations were also made of Chilled Beef (Bone taint, bruising, etc.). Tinned foods (Blown tins) and Butter (Stale). All these articles were surrendered voluntarily so that it was not necessary to legally "seize" the affected foods.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.—The County Council undertakes this work. With the exception of samples of milk, no other foods were sent there for examination during the year.

BAKEHOUSES.—There are four Bakehouses in the district and 14 inspections were made to them. The Bakehouses are generally well kept.

The administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, and the Factories Act, 1937 (which superseded the Act of 1901 on 1st July, 1938).

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
Factories with mechanical power ..	6	—	—
Factories without mechanical power	15	3	—
† Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises).	10	4	—
† Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories. Total	31	7	—

2.— DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	5	5	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2) ..	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary { insufficient	2	2	—	—
Conveni- { unsuitable	4	4	—	—
ences (S. 7) { or defective	—	—	—	—
{ not separate	—	—	—	—
{ for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)				
Total	11	11	—	—

Prevalence of, and Control Over, Infectious Diseases.

The total number of cases of notifiable infectious diseases during the year was 17, not including Tuberculosis. The table below specifies the diseases, age distribution and the number of cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital.

Six of the cases of Scarlet Fever were scholars at three separate Schools in the District, two cases occurring at each. The case of Dysentery was mild and of the Sonne type. The two cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were due to causes other than sepsis, one occurring in the Wellington Maternity Nursing Home and the other in the Wellington Cottage Hospital. The other cases call for no comment.

<i>Diseases</i>	<i>No. of Cases Notified at Ages—Years.</i>								<i>No. Adm. to Hos-pital.</i>
	<i>At All Ages</i>	<i>0-1</i>	<i>1-5</i>	<i>5-15</i>	<i>15-25</i>	<i>25-45</i>	<i>45-65</i>	<i>65 up</i>	
Scarlet Fever.....	8	—	2	5	1	—	—	—	7
Diphtheria.....	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Dysentery	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Pneumonia.....	3	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—
Totals	17	—	4	6	1	4	—	2	8

As the district is one of the constituent authorities forming the Taunton and District Joint Isolation Hospital Board, a summary of the cases treated therein and the Annual Report are attached to the end of this Report.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.—The County Council initiated a scheme for Immunisation against Diphtheria commencing in October, 1938. Broadly speaking, the scheme is to provide immunisation for two categories of children viz.: (a) the pre-school child, *i.e.* for children under the age of 5 years and (b) the school child. (a) The Scheme provides for the pre-school child being immunised by the private Medical Practitioners of the area; the immunising material to be used is Alum precipitated toxoid (A.P.T.) obtainable free on application to the County Council; the dosage of A.P.T. is 0.1 c.c. for the first dose, to be followed by a second dose of 0.5 c.c. after an interval of four weeks. Medical practitioners have to keep a record of each case immunised on a record card supplied by the County Council which they return to that authority after completion and signature. A small fee of 5/- is paid by the County Council for each case immunised by the two doses. Immunisation is recommended from the 9th month onwards. No particulars are available as to the number of pre-school children immunised under this part of the Scheme during the 3 months of its existence. (b) The Scheme provides for the immunisation of children of School age by the Medical staff of the County Council. The immunisation is with the same material, A.P.T., but the cost of the material is borne by the Local Authority in whose area the School children belong, an expense sanctioned by the Minister of Health under Section 177 (1) of the Public Health Act, 1936. This part

of the County Council's Scheme must necessarily proceed by stages, and up to the end of the year, 1938, the Scheme had not yet been put into operation in the Urban District of Wellington, but was to be commenced in 1939.

MEASLES SERUM.—The Local Authority have not yet been advised to take any action in regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation. The extending use of M and B 693 has done much to reduce the more common complications of measles.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No arrangements have been made by the Local Authority with respect to the Prevention of Blindness under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum are admitted to the Isolation Hospital for treatment, when necessary, under the County Council Scheme. One case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notified during the year; it was treated in the Taunton Isolation Hospital and completely recovered.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality During 1938.

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the area during 1938 are given in the following form required by the Ministry of Health:—

<i>Age Periods.</i>	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory.</i>		<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory.</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—20	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
25—35	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
35—45	—	3	—	—	—	2	—	1
45—55	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
Totals	3	6	—	1	2	4	—	1

The Tuberculosis Register shows that at the end of the year there were residing in the district, 71 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 5 cases of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

No action had to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the Milk Trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

TAUNTON AND DISTRICT JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL.
SUMMARY of CASES TREATED etc. and ANALYSIS of ADMISSIONS to THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL
during the TWELVE MONTHS ended 31st December, 1938.

Cases from the six Constituent Authorities.		In Hospital, 1st January, 1938.	Number admitted.	Number discharged.	Died.	Total Treated	Total patient days.	Remaining in Hos- pital 31. 12. 38.	Scarlet Fever.	Scarlet Fever with Diphtheria.	Diphtheria.	Diphtheria Carrier.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Erysipelas.	Enteric Fever.	Dysentery.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Measles with Pneumonia.	Whooping Cough with Pneumonia.	Mumps with complications.	Nursing Mother with Ophthalmia Infant.	Infants accompany- ing Puerperal Pyrexia Mothers.	Septic Tonsilitis.	Septic Dermatitis.	TOTAL ADMISSIONS.	
Taunton M.B.	..	16	44	56	2	60	1835	2	21	1	12	—	2	3	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	44
Taunton R.D.	..	3	35	18	—	38	1729	20	7	—	13	10	2	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	35
Wellington U.D.	..	3	9	12	—	12	364	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	1 (NEG)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Wellington R.D.	..	2	5	7	—	7	174	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Dulverton R.D.	..	—	7	7	—	7	491	—	—	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Bridgwater (South) R.D.	..	—	6	3	—	6	143	3	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	6	
Totals: Constituent Authorities.		24	106	103	2	130	4736	25	41	1	30	10	7	3	2	1	3	1	4	—	1	—	1	1	106	
Cases from other Authorities.																										
Yeovil R.D. . .	..	—	6	6	—	6	396	—	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Chard M.B. . .	..	—	3	3	—	3	74	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Chard R.D. . .	..	—	7	7	—	7	278	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Crewkerne U.D.	..	—	5	5	—	5	172	—	5	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	
Bridgwater U.D.	..	—	10	10	—	10	191	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	10	
Bridgwater (N) R.D.	..	—	1	1	—	1	30	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Langport R.D.	..	—	3	3	—	3	68	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	
Military Depot Taunton	..	—	1	1	—	1	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	
Totals: Other Authorities		—	36	36	—	36	1224	—	16	—	5	1	8	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	36	
Grand Totals: All Authorities		24	142	139	2	166	5960	25	57	1	35	11	15	3	2	1	5	1	4	1	1	3	1	1	142	

Comments Etc., on the Summary of Cases treated in the Isolation Hospital.

The admissions have been allocated to the various Sanitary Districts from which the cases were derived, but they were not in all cases chargeable to those Districts: for convenience, an abstract of these cases is shown in the following Tables:—

Sanitary District.	Diphtheria and Diphtheria Carriers.	Scarlet Fever.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Nursing Mothers and Infants.	Total cases chargeable to Somerset County Council.	Patient Days.
Taunton R.D.	23	1	2	—	—	26	1209
Wellington R.D.	—	—	1	1	—	2	34
Bridgwater R.D.	—	—	1	1	—	2	42
Dulverton R.D.	—	—	1	1	1	3	83
Chard R.D.	—	—	1	—	—	1	28
Langport R.D.	—	—	2	—	—	2	46
Bridgwater U.D.	—	—	5	2	3	10	191
	23	1	13	5	4	46	1588

DEATHS.—Two deaths occurred during the year, one from Whooping Cough and Pneumonia admitted in a moribund condition and dying four hours after admission, and the other from Enteric Fever three days after admission from Cerebral Toxaemia.

OPERATIONS.—Two were performed by the Board's Surgeon for the enucleation of Tonsils and Adenoids from two patients who were persistent Diphtheria Carriers.

PUERPERAL SEPSIS.—In May the Hospital was open to receive these cases; since then, fifteen cases were admitted and discharged completely cured. The average days of residence for each case was 24.06.

HOSPITAL STAFF.—One Probationer Nurse contracted Scarlet Fever during the year, otherwise the general health of the Nursing and Domestic Staffs has been excellent. The work of the Nurses has been very much increased since the admission of Puerperal Pyrexia cases. These cases require a great deal more nursing attention than the average type of case usually received into an Isolation Hospital, so that the Matron's ingenuity for the proper distribution of her Staff is frequently taxed to cope with sudden increases of work.

R. DE V. KING,
Medical Superintendent.

27th February, 1939.

